

INFORMATION REPORT

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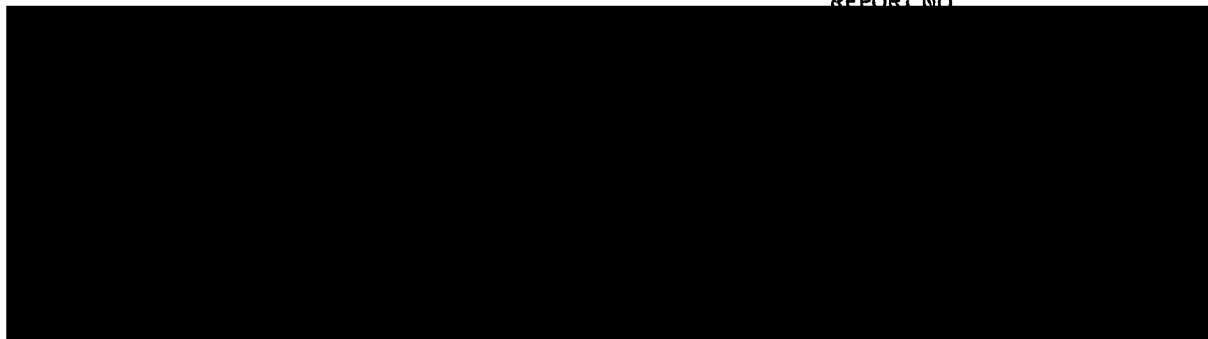
COUNTRY Germany, (Russian Zone)
 SUBJECT Organization of "Aktion Land"
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1. The second "Deutscher Bauerntag" (German Farmers' Convention), organized by the VdgB, took place in Berlin from 23 to 25 June 1949. At this convention an "Aktion Land" was established in connection with the National Front. Several farmers and agricultural experts from Western Germany, took part in the organizational conference.
2. The "Aktion Land" was initiated by order of Paul Morker of the SED Politburo, and is backed by Otto Reuter. Otto Koerting and Kurt Vieweg, chairmen of the VdgB, as well as Ernst Goldenbaum, President of the Farmers' Party, belong to the "Aktion Land" group. Dr. Andreas Hermes was not present, although a promise of cooperation was received from him. Arthur von Machui, SPD member of the Frankfurt economic administration and leading member of the Neuheimer Kreis, was invited but was not present. Professor Ernst Niekisch, of Berlin University, Landespastor Schwartz of Mecklenburg, Richard Scherlinger (KPD) of Ingoldstadt in Bavaria, as well as the following two men took part in the organizational conferences:

Klaus Heim, long a member of the anarchist peasant movement. A few years before Hitler's advent to power he joined the National Socialist Party and Otto Strasser's "Schwarze Front".

Dr. Roussaint, a Catholic priest with a good reputation among west German pacifist groups and particularly among Catholic youth movements. He is at the head of a settlers' group in opposition to a group formed by refugees from the East headed by Geistlicher Rat Goebel. Dr. Roussaint has close contacts with the KP in Western Germany and has been recommended by Max Reimann to the SED Politburo as trustworthy for tasks which may arise for him in Western Germany. Dr. Roussaint's "Siedlervverband" (settlers' group) will argue, on pacifist grounds, with the refugees from the East, in favor of recognizing the Oder-Neisse line.

3. The purpose of the "Aktion Land" is to develop the idea of the National Front among farmer groups, country associations, and large refugee centers in Western Germany. It intends particularly to take advantage of the unconditional desire for peace on the part of those advocating Catholic Christian communism and also intends to exploit the misery of the homeless. The desire for the return of the lost provinces in the East is described as being a form of military revenge.

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4. At the conference in Berlin it was pointed out that the KP in Western Germany could not take over this phase of political work. Ernst Niekisch stated that the time had passed when a particular party could still be considered for any important task, and that the coming period of conflict with the USA requires other means than those used in the class warfare which has existed up to now.

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